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10/652,861	08/29/2003	Ulrich Busch	117163.00087	1001

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EXAMINER

FAULCON JR, LENWOOD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3762

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Examiner is of the opinion that the "further sensing unit" limitation does not have support in the specification.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Examiner takes the position that the phrase "at the same time a time interval from the last occurrence of the ventricular event ascertained outside a crosstalk window, to the next possible ventricular stimulation event," is not clear as to whether it is meant to include an additional time interval, an overlapping time interval or

some other type of time interval; however, Examiner interprets this phrase to be providing an additional condition which must be met for suppressing a stimulation pulse to the second atrium.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The following rejections are based on prior art, which can be applied to the claims as to the best of the understanding of the Examiner.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Limousin (U.S. Patent No. 5,514,161).

In regards to claims 1 and 2, Examiner is interpreting both a "sensing unit" and "stimulation unit" to be electrodes, or in the alternative the circuitry required to perform sensing and stimulation. Limousin teaches of a double atrial triple chamber cardiac pacemaker, comprising at least one sensing unit for sensing events of a first atrium and a first ventricle (see for example col. 3 lines 50-53), at least one stimulation unit that is adapted to produce stimulation pulses to a second atrium (see for example col. 2 lines 37-43 and the first ventricle (see for example col. 2 lines 37-43), a control unit (col. 3 lines 17-27). Examiner takes the position that it is inherent in the system as taught by Limousin to provide ventricular stimulation pulse in the absence of sensed ventricular event after an atrial sensed event triggers a ventricular escape interval (see for example

col. 4 lines 38-49), since this is the reason for providing ventricular stimulation (see for example col. 4 lines 5-7), or in the alternative it is well known in the art to stimulate the ventricle in the absence of sensed ventricular event at the conclusion ventricular escape interval, and it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the system as taught by Limousin to provide ventricular stimulation under such conditions. Examiner also takes the position that Limousin teaches of stimulating a second atrium in regards to interatrial conduction time (16) if the stimulation pulse is not inhibited (see for example col. 6 lines 4-13).

Further in regards to claims 1 and 2, Examiner takes the position that Limousin teaches that the delivery of a stimulation pulse to a second atrium is suppressed if a ventricular sensed event occurs in a crosstalk/listening window (see for example col. 5 lines 61-67 and col. 6 lines 1-4), and if the time between the previous ventricular event that occurred outside of the listening window and the time of the next possible ventricular event can be measured by the system and determined to be greater than what would be expected for an acceptable time period/interval (col. 6 lines 17-20), similarly to the process Limousin teaches of for measurements of sensed atrial signals (see for example col. 5 lines 40-60). Or in the alternative, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system as taught by Limousin to include a timing of an interval between such ventricular events and comparing it to a predetermine value/interval.

Further regarding claim 2, Limousin teaches of suppressing the delivery of a stimulation pulse to the second atrium (see for example col. 5 lines 61-67 and col. 6

lines 1-4) and inherently has the ability to do so when the system is working the maximum stimulation rate, since there no is teaching that it is not capable of doing such.

In regards to claims 3 and 7, again Examiner interprets "sensing unit" to be an electrode or the circuitry required for sensing. Limousin teaches of sensing in the right atrium (col. 3 lines 53-63), which Examiner interprets broadly to include a separate sensing unit. Or in the alternative, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a separate (multiple sensing units), since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. Further, in regards to claims 3 and 7, Examiner takes the position that the Limousin system is capable of suppressing the stimulation of the second atrium in light of a signal which is characteristic of a left atrial sensed event (see for example col. 3 lines 53-63), or in the alternative, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system as taught by Limousin to suppress the stimulation of the second atrium in light of left atrial sensed event (see for example col. col. 3 lines 63-67 and col. 4 lines 1-5).

In regards to claims 4-6 and 8-16, Examiner take the position that Limousin system teaches of calculating the time spacing between a ventricular event and a planned ventricular stimulation, and further comparing the calculated timed spacing to a predetermined value (see for example col. 6 lines 17-20 and col. 5 lines 40-60). Or in the alternative, the calculating of a interval between ventricular events and further comparing the events to a predetermined time is well know in the art and would have

been an obvious modification to the Limousin system to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Mann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,825,870), Thompson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,902,324), Rajasekhar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,701), Stahmann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,553,258), Stahmann et al. (U.S. 2002/0082653), Struble (U.S. 2002/0183792), Rouw et al. (U.S. 2002/0183795), Stahmann et al. (U.S. 2003/0199931).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lenwood Faulcon, Jr. whose telephone number is 571-272-6090. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9 to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela D. Sykes, can be reached on 571-272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lenwood Faulcon, Jr.



George Manuel

Primary Examiner